

REMARKS***Status of the Claims***

Claim 19 has been cancelled (and claim 24 has been amended to reflect this cancellation). Claims 13-18 and 20-24 are now pending. It is believed that no new matter has been added. The applicants' wish to thank Examiner Hartley for speaking with the applicants' representative, Howard C. Lee, on 25 May 2004 via telephone to discuss the nature of the double patenting rejection in this application and in application serial numbers 10/081,779 and 10/081,818. While not necessarily in agreement with the positions taken by the Examiner, the applicants are submitting the requisite terminal disclaimers for each of the applications discussed which should obviate the rejections of record.

Closing

Applicants also believe that this application is in condition for allowance. However, should any issue(s) of a minor nature remain, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned at telephone number (212) 808-0700 so that the issue(s) might be promptly resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

Norris, McLaughlin & Marcus, P.A.

By: Howard C. Lee
Howard C. Lee
Reg. No. 48,104

220 East 42nd Street
30th Floor
New York, New York 10017
(212) 808-0700

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Amendment under 37 CFR § 1.116 (4 pages total) is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the date indicated below:

Date: 26 May 2004

By: Agata Glinka
Agata Glinka